NEWS RELEASE

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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

* PUBLIC NOTICE *

East Chicago's Ispat Inland Inc. technology workers certified for federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that employees of Lake County's Ispat Inland Inc., information technology division, are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the federal Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) program is made available to workers who are displaced or adversely impacted due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country. Located in East Chicago, Ispat Inland Inc. manufactures carbon and alloy flat steel sheet in coils.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees requesting these benefits must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A company official filed a petition on behalf of the workers on March 18, 2004.

An investigation conducted by USDOL found that Inspat's major clients increased the amount of import purchases of carbon and alloy flat steel sheet in coils. Although the information technology division did not manufacture this product, these workers supported its production. Thus the division is considered adversely impacted and is eligible for benefits. With the ruling, any employee of Ispat Inland's information technology division, who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after March 20, 2004 through the two years from the date of certification, is eligible for assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for Alternative Trade Adjustment aAsistance (ATAA) for separated older workers of Ispat's information technology division. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50 percent of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA and ATAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Marsha Clemmons at 219/981-1520 or any WorkOne Center for more information.